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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 13330 100936Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 INR-05 SP-02 /028 W
----------058283 100939Z /10
R 100545Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4299

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13330

STADIS//

LIMDIS

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GLEYSTEEN FROM AMBASSADOR
WHITEHOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CH, US
SUBJECT: TRAVEL PLANS OF NEW PRCLO CHIEF, AMBASSADOR CH'AI
TSE-MIN

REF: STATE 117383

1. REFTEL ARRIVED JUST A BIT TOO LATE FOR LUNCHEON MAY 9.
HOWEVER, CONVERSATION WAS GENERAL IN TONE AND DID NOT RPT
NOT GET DOWN TO SPECIFICS. WE ARE CONVEYING SUBSTANCE OF
POINTS AMBASSADOR CH'AI MADE AT LUNCH IN SEPTEL TRANSMITTED
TODAY WHICH PROVIDES SOME BIO CNFO WE HAVE PICKED UP AND
A REVIEW OF HIS SERVICE AS PRC AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND.

2. RE HIS DATE OF ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON, HE WAS NONCOMMITTAL.
HE WILL BE LEAVING BANGKOK ABOUT MAY 15. HE SAID THAT HE
PLANNED TO RETURN TO PEKING FOR CONSULTATIONS AND ADDED
HE WOULD CALL ON AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK THERE. HE DID NOT RAISE
QUESTION OF HIS VISA, AND WE ASSUME HE WILL TAKE CARE OF
THIS IN PEKING, WHICH WILL PLACE USLO IN POSITION TO LEARN
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 13330 100936Z

OF HIS TRAVEL PLANS MORE PRECISELY. HE NOTED THAT CAAC
NOW HAS SERVICE FROM PEKING TO PARIS VIA KARACHI AND SAID
HE WOULD PROBABLY GO THAT WAY WHEN HE WENT TO WASHINGTON.
CH'AI TOLD US HE HAS GROWN CHILDREN WORKING IN PEKING.
IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION HE SAID HE DID NOT RPT NOT EXPECT
THEY WOULD VISIT HIM IN WASHINGTON, AS DISTANCE IS "TOO
FAR." WE ASSUME THAT CH'AI WILL BE ACCOMPANIED IN WASH-

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INGTON BY HIS WIFE, LI YU-FENG, WHO HAS BEEN WITH HIM IN BANGKOK. SHE HAS APPEARED ONLY RARELY IN PUBLIC. CH'AI MADE NO RPT NO REFERENCE TO PRCLO ACTING CHIEF HAN DURING OUR CONVERSATION AT LUNCH.

3. CONVERSATION AT LUNCH WAS VERY CORDIAL, IF NOT ESPECIALLY SUBSTANTIVE. I DID NOT RPT NOT REFER TO SHANG HAI COMMUNIQUE AT ALL, AND AMBASSADOR CH'AI'S MENTION OF IT WAS ONLY IN PASSING AND IN CONTEXT THAT HE PERSONALLY HOPED TO SEE FULL NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS ACHIEVED DURING HIS TERM IN WASHINGTON. HE IMMEDIATELY ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE.

WHITEHOUSE

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